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SPECIAL SESSION 5

C34-SP5. Seas of difference: political and cultural geographies of the seas and international waters

Convenor: Elena dell'Agnesse, University of Milan Bicocca, elena.dellagnese@unimib.it

On the world political map, the Ocean Sea is usually visualized as an undifferentiated blue surface. Such a representation reflects the marginal position occupied by the sea in traditional political geography, a “landlocked” discipline, that focused traditionally on the 1 attributes of the land territory of the nation-state. At best political geography seems to be concerned with “territorial” disputes related to the political control of straits, of islands, and of the marine resources located in riparian waters and the high sea.

A more in-depth interest towards the political meaning of the ocean has been surfacing in the past two decades. On the one hand, there is a growing literature about the “regional analysis” of different marine realms, like the Mediterranean, the Arctic or the Caribbean Sea. On the other hand, more attention is given to the specific condition of extra-territoriality offered by the high sea and to its economic and political repercussions on human activities, especially those connected with mobility (cruise tourism, migrations, cargo shipping) and with new forms of settlement (seasteading).

The session welcomes papers focused on any aspect of these emerging and differentiated political geographies of the sea.

Please send your abstract (max 250 words) to the convenor (see above) before you submit it online on the website of the Conference

<http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/registration-submission/commissions-and-study-groups-list/>

Under C34. Political Geography. Deadline for abstract submission is 15 March 2018

For general information see <http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/>